

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application is requested in view of the amendments made herein and the following remarks.

Claims 3, 5, 7 and 8 are canceled. Thus, Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 9-20 are pending. Claims 1, 19 and 20 are independent.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that Claim 20 is allowable.

Claims 3 and 7 are objected to. Those claims are canceled, thereby obviating that issue.

The Examiner objects to Claim 19 with regard to the means plus function language. Without agreeing with the Examiner's position, and without affecting the claim scope, Claim 19 is amended as suggested in the Office action.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Application Publication No. 2003/0114765 to *Lia et al.*, hereinafter *Lia*. The Examiner turns attention to the embodiment shown in Figure 4 of *Lia*.

Figure 4 in *Lia* shows a blood pressure measuring apparatus comprising a gage 80 that is connected to a sleeve 38 by way of an engagement portion. The sleeve 38 is made from a pair of sleeve portions 44 including a socket 62 (see paragraphs [0025-0026] in *Lia*). The pressure in *Lia* is created and controlled in the pneumatic assembly 20, 21, 27 that is connected to a terminal end 105, 106 of the engagement portion 65A via a hose 19 (Figure 1). The gage 30 is connected with the engagement portion 65A such that air can be supplied to the sleeve 38 and the gauge 80 from the hose 19 via the engagement portion 65A. In other words, *Lia* discloses that the operating unit 20, 21, 27 is connected to the engagement portion

65A, and that the gage 80 and the sleeve 38 are connected to the engagement portion.

Claim 1 is amended to recite, among other features, that the hand-operated blood pressure measuring apparatus is attached to a sleeve via a connector end of the hand-operated operating unit.

Claim 1 is allowable at least because *Lia* discloses that the gauge 80 is connected to the sleeve 38 by way of the engagement portion 65A, and that the engagement portion is not a connector end of an operating unit in the context of the present application. Thus, *Lia* does not disclose a hand-operated blood pressure measuring apparatus that is attached to a sleeve via a connector end of a hand-operated operating unit, as recited in Claim 1.

Claim 1 is also allowable at least because *Lia* does not disclose that the gauge 80 is connected to a hand-operated operating unit by at least one of a removable connecting element and a bolting element. Rather, the gauge 80 is fixed to the connected part 65A and there is no indication that the connection is removable, in the context of the present application. Thus, *Lia* does not disclose a measuring cell and an operating unit that are connected to each other by at least one of a removable connecting element and a bolting element, as recited in Claim 1.

Claim 1 is also allowable at least because *Lia* does not disclose that the gauge 80 can be connected to the engagement part 65A in at least two different predetermined positions with respect to each other. Therefore, *Lia* does not disclose a measuring cell and a hand-operated operating unit that can be connected to each other in at least two different predetermined positions with respect to each other, as recited in Claim 1.

Claim 19 is allowable for similar reasons as Claim 1 with regard to similar claim language. Claim 19 is also allowable because the cited documents do not disclose or suggest an embodiment including a guiding means for guiding at least one of the measuring cell and the operating unit into the at least two predetermined positions, in the context of the present application and Claim 19.

The dependent claims are rejected as being anticipated or obvious in view of *Lia* or *Lia* and various secondary references. None of the rejections of the dependent claims remedy the deficiencies of the rejection of Claim 1 and the dependent claims should be allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

For at least the reasons stated above, it is requested that all the rejections and objections be withdrawn and that this application be allowed in a timely manner.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner feel that a teleconference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 1, 2007

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